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INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL MEDICINE
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COUNTY BOROUGH OF WIGAN.

ANNUAL REPORT.

Of the

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

for the year 1944.

HENRY WHITEHEAD, M.D. D.P.H. (Vict)., M.B., B.S. (Lond)

Medical Officer of Health and
Superintendent School Medical Officer

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT 1944.

Public Health Department,

Library Street,

WIGAN.

1st June 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee of the County Borough of Wigan.

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my annual report on the Medical Inspection of School children for the year 1944.

The report has been typed and curtailed in order to save expense and paper.

Owing to war conditions, the new extensions have not been adequately furnished, Suitable furniture will have to be provided after the war.

Diphtheria is less prevalent in the Borough. There is a marked reduction in the number of notifications of the disease. In 1943 there were 61 cases amongst school children, and 32 in 1944.

The number of children for whom acceptances were received for free inoculation against diphtheria was much less than in 1943 being 354 against 784, and the total immunised since the scheme commenced was 7556. Much has been done nationally and locally to encourage parents to have their children inoculated and yet many are apathetic, and a large number definitely opposed to it.

At the end of 1944 it is estimated that 56% of all school children had been immunised.

The provision of milk and meals has been extended and improved and the children have benefited accordingly. (See page 6).

On October 1st a Speech Therapy Service was commenced, and Miss C.E.Renfrew was appointed Speech Therapist to serve jointly the County Borough Of St. Helens and the County Borough of Wigan.

For the present the Wigan sessions are all day Monday and Friday each week and alternate Thursdays. Miss Renfrew's report appears on page 7.

I desire to express my thanks to all the members of my staff for their continued excellent work and loyalty. The war has called for greater efforts and increased duties.

My thanks are also due to the Director of Education and his staff, and to the Teachers and Attendance Officers for their help and co-operation.

I am grateful for your continued confidence and support.

I am Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

Henry Whitehead,

Supt. School Medical Officer.

B. NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN FOUND AT ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION TO REQUIRE TREATMENT. (EXCLUDING UNCLEANLINESS AND DENTAL DISEASES.)

	Group.	Number of Children. Inspected.	Found to require treatment.
Code groups :-	Entrants.	1400	106
	Intermediates.	1173	109
	Leavers.	900	91
	Total code groups.	3473	306
	Other routine inspections.	341	31
	Grand Total.	3814	337

CRIPPLING DEFECTS:- The following crippling defects were found at Medical Inspection:-

Depressed sternum.	2	Scoliosis.	1
Asymmetry chest.	1	Poor Posture.	7
Pes Planus.	2	Pronated feet.	4
Talipes Equinus.	2	Torticollis.	8
Hemiplegia.	1	Sprengle Shoulder.	1
Contracture fingers.	1	Dislocated Shoulder.	1
Multiple exostoses.	1		

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF NOTIFICATIONS BY DOCTORS AND HEAD TEACHERS OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN CHILDREN. (Between the ages of 5 - 14 years.)

	1944.		1944
Scarlet Fever.	221	Pneumonia.	14
Diphtheria.	32	Chicken-pox.	78
Tuberculosis of Respiratory Tract.	2	Whooping cough.	13
Other tubercular diseases.	10	Measles.	77
Cerebro spinal meningitis.	1	Mumps.	-
Erysipelas.	1	Acute polioencephalitis.	1

DIPHTHERIA IN THE SCHOOLS.

During the year 1944 diphtheria was again prevalent in many parts of this country, and although Wigan is usually comparatively free from this disease, the outbreak which commenced in 1936 still continues, but shows a reduction on the 1943 figure.

The average number of notifications of diphtheria per annum during the ten years 1935 to 1944 for all ages was 196.

In 1944, 61 cases were notified, of which 32 were school children, a marked decrease on the previous year.

Protective inoculation against diphtheria is offered free, and the written consent of the parents is obtained before any child is immunised.

Consent forms have been issued to each child to take home to his parents for signature on several occasions, and the Head Teachers have been asked to co-operate in advising parents to have their children inoculated.

The number of acceptances for school children during the year 1944 was :- 354
The total number completed since the scheme commenced was :- 7556

All cases of diphtheria were promptly removed to hospital and the usual disinfection carried out at the home. Investigations by Medical Officers and Nurses were made at the schools involved, and a search for carriers or cases was made in various classes. Many nose and throat swabs were taken and some positive cases found. Several children attending school clinics were found to be positive and removed to hospital.

The suggested preventive measures against diphtheria in schools have been fully dealt with in previous reports.

Below is a summery of the work [illegible]ken by the School Nurses :-

	1943.	1944.
No. of visits paid to homes for following up of cases.	2048.	2185
No. of visits paid to schools in connection with general cleanliness. ...	74	76
No. of children inspected for general cleanliness.....	9899	9718
No. of visits paid to schools for re-inspections for general cleanliness.	550	440
No. of children re-inspected for general cleanliness.	33628	24065
No. of visits to schools for infectious diseases.	6	40
No. of children inspected for infectious diseases.	326	697
No. of visits paid to schools for other purposes.	108	154
No. of visits paid to homes for infectious diseases..	503	89
No. of visits paid to schools for medical inspection.	174	207
No, of visits to schools for dental inspection..	40	44
No of visits to homes for dental treatment.....	1228	890

CLEANLINESS.

The general scheme for supervising the general cleanliness of the school children is the same as in previous years. It will be noted that there is a slight increase in the percentage of verminous children.

No. examined, first inspection.	9718
Pediculosis of Head at First inspection.	934.
Percentage.	9.61
Pediculosis of head at final inspection.	449
Percentage.	4.62

MEDICAL INSPECTION RETURNS. TABLE IV. RETURN OF THE DEFECTS TREATED DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1944.

TREATMENT TABLE.

Group.1 - Minor Ailments (excluding uncleanliness for which see group 5).

Disease or defect.	Number of defects treated or under treatment during the year.		
	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
SKIN :-			
Ringworm - scalp.	2	-	2
c - body.	11	-	11
Scabies.	238	-	238
Impetigo.	117	-	117
Other skin diseases.	1947	-	1947
Minor eye defects (External & other but excluding cases falling in group 2).	191	1	192
Minor ear defects.	139	-	139
Miscellaneous (ie Minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.)	238	1	239
TOTAL.	2883	2	2885

BOARD OF EDUCATION. TABLE IV. - GROUP 2. DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT (EXCLUDING MINOR EYE DEFECTS. TREATED AS MINOR AILMENTS - GROUP 1.

Defect or disease.	No. of defects dealt with.		
	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
Errors of refraction including squint.	580	1	581

Total number of children for whom glasses were prescribed :-

(A)	Under the Authority's scheme.	429
	Total number of children who obtained glasses....	
(A)	Under the authority's scheme.	357
(B)	Otherwise.	11

DEFECTIVE VISION.

Number of refractions carried out at the clinic...	580
No. of children for whom glasses were prescribed..	429
No. of children for whom glasses were not prescribed...	92
No. of children for whom new glasses were not considered necessary....	18
Uncompleted cases.	36
No. referred to Infirmary...	5

ANALYSIS OF CASES IN WHICH GLASSES WERE PRESCRIBED.

Simple Hypermetropia..	190
Simple Myopia.	52
Hypermetropic Astigmatism..	122
Myopic Astigmatism.	45
Mixed Astigmatism..	20

It will be seen from Table IV., above that in 429 cases glasses were prescribed but only 368 obtained or received glasses under the Authority's scheme or privately. The Teachers could help a great deal if they would see that children for whom glasses have been prescribed, obtain and wear them.

GROUP. 3 - TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.

No. of Defects.		
Received operative Treatment.		
Under the Authority's Scheme in clinic or hospital.	By Private Practitioner or Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme.	Total.
93	2	95

TREATMENT OF TONSILS AND ADENOIDS. The arrangements have been previously noted. See pages 33 and 34 Report 1932.

TREATMENT OF DENTAL DEFECTS. The present position has not changed from the previous year. See Pages 34 and 35 Report 1932.
The Dental Surgeon is able to inspect all the schools once in 15 months. This is not sufficient for effective treatment. All school children should be inspected for dental defects twice a year.
An Assistant Dentist was appointed in 1941 and was on duty from February 1941 to September 1941 when he was called up to H.M. Forces.

TABLE IV - DENTAL INSPECTION.

(1) Number of children inspected by the Dentist :-

(a)	Routine age groups.	7213	(6)	Fillings.	
(b)	Specials.	111		Permanent Teeth.	1022
	Total.	7324		Temporary Teeth.	79
				Total.	1101
(2)	Number found to require treatment.	3433	(7)	Extractions.	
(3)	Number actually treated.... ..	3066		Permanent Teeth.	241
(4)	Attendances made by children for			Temporary. Teeth.	2439
	Treatment...	3130	(8)	Administration of Total..	2680
(5)	Half days devoted to treatment.	365		general anaesthetics	
(6)	Half days devoted to Inspection.	44		for extraction..	Nil.
			(9)	Other operations:-	
				Permanent Teeth..	263
				Temporary Teeth..	256
	Total.	409			519

OPEN AIR EDUCATION.

No children have been sent to the Southport Summer School during the current year.

SUNLIGHT TREATMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN DURING 1944. CASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

24 children were referred from the School Clinics tothe Local Infirmary for Ultra Violet Ray Treatment. Many of them showed marked improvement.

CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

No. of cases & conditions.	No. of attendances during the year 1944.	Results of treatment.
10 Tuberculous glands of neck.	273	1 Improving. 8 Discharged - well. 1 Ceased to attend.
1 Lupus of face.	57	1 Improving.

PHYSICAL TRAINING.

In spite of many difficulties due to war conditions, progress has been maintained in all branches of Physical Training in the schools and Evening Institutes.
Recreative work for boys and girls has been continued and attendance has been fairly good.
The Dancing course held for Teachers was most successful and the appointment of a part-time pianist for dancing lessons in schools is proving a great asset and there is no doubt that the standard of work is improving.

SWIMMING INSTRUCTION.

I am indebted to Mr. J.H.Cockrell, the Baths Superintendent for the following figures:-
The number of children who attended the Baths for swimming instruction during the year 1944 was 600 boys and 350 girls. The boys made 17879 attendances and the girls 10448, a total of 28327.
The number of school children who attended the Baths in 1944 after school hours (that is after 4.0.pm.) was

Boys.	Girls.	Total.
37,420.	18,622.	56,042.

The number of Swimming certificates gained by school children in 1944 was.

Boys.	Girls.
224.	214.

PROVISION OF MILK AND MEALS.

In 1944, the Authority's school meals and milk service has continued to operate with extremely beneficial results.
The meals are now supplied from the three Depots operated by the Authority at Woodhouse Lane, Wigan, at Whelley, Wigan, (opened in 1944) and at Horwich. They are served at forty eight school centres, and six new dining halls which have been opened during the year.
Meals are supplied free of charge to children whose parents' incomes fall below the prescribed scale and to children recommended for free meals by the School Medical Officer.

SUMMARY OF MEALS AND MILK SERVED.

Day.	Free Meals.		Paid Meals.		Free Milk.		Paid Milk.	
	1943	1944	1943	1944	1943	1944	1943	1944
Week-day.	1200	1350	2770	3070	1443	1753	7000	8100
Saturday.	630	675	210	225	-	-	-	-

Total daily meals in 1944 - 4420.

Table 11.

Classification of the Nutrition of Children inspected during the year in the Routine Age Groups.

Age Groups.	Total.	A Excellent.		B Normal.		C Slightly sub-normal.		D Bad.	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants.	1400	62	4.4	1326	94.7	12	0.85	-	-
Second Age-group.	1173	44	3.75	1080	92.9	45	3.83	4	0.34
Third Age-group.	900	23	2.5	856	95.1	20	2.2	1	0.01
Other Routine Inspections.	341	22	6.45	307	90.02	12	3.5	-	-
Total.	3814	151	3.95	3569	93.5	89	2.33	5	0.13

CO-OPERATION OF PARENTS.

The number of parents present at Medical Inspection varies considerably in the different schools. The total number of parents present was 2171 and the total number of children medically inspected was 3787 a percentage of 57.

CO-OPERATION OF VOLUNTARY BODIES.

During the year the help of the N.S.P.C.C. Inspector has been given in 20 cases involving the welfare of 64 children. In all instances the results were satisfactory The Inspector made 99 visits of supervision in connection with the above cased. Of the 20 cases two were prosecuted and parents convicted.

WIGAN LOCAL YOUTH COMMITTEE.

During the past 12 months the Worsley Boys' Club has been formed on the large Scot Lane Housing Estate and already it has a very large membership. Two other clubs, both mixed, have been formed, one in connection with the St. John's RC Church and the other at St. Matthew's C of E Church. Both these clubs are developing very satisfactorily, although the St. John's Club is suffering from a lack of suitable accommodation. Of the clubs already in existence the Wigan Boys' Club have now regained possession of part of their premises used for Civil Defence purposes and this will result in greater ability to cater for their very large number of members. The Springfield Boys' Club have obtained new premises and the Girls Training Corps have secured premises for a Rest Room and Canteen. In addition the Army Cadet Force has been fortuate in securing the use of the Drill Hall as their headquarters and the Wigan Sea Cadet Corps have now obtained their own "Stone Frigate" which has been excellently equipped. The Sea Cadets have also been granted permission to use the

lake at Wrightington Hospital for boating practice in their own 32 foot whaler.

SPEECH THERAPY.

Miss C.E.Renfrew, speech therapist, has submitted the following report. It will be noted that the work described extends into 1945 and is included to give a more comprehensive account of the launching of this new service:-

Regular treatment of 32 cases was begun at the end of January. The Speech Clinic is held on Mondays and Fridays at the Y.W.C.A. premises, 13 Library Street. Mondays are devoted to the teaching of children with articulatory defects; Fridays to stammerers, in groups during the morning session, and individually during the afternoon session. Sessions are also conducted on alternate Thursdays, during which new cases and those under supervision can be seen, and contacts made with the schools and homes of the children under treatment.
Two girls were discharged at the end of February, one with the defect cured and the speech now satisfactory - the speech of the other had improved considerably, but, having obtained employment, she can no longer attend. Many of the cases selected for treatment will undoubtedly be slow in yielding results, but a vast improvement has been noted in the speech of most of those children attending.

ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC;- 1st January 1944 to 31st December 1944.

	Standish.	Wigan.	Hindley.	Ince.	Total.
No. of children of school age attending.	18	123	15	19	175
No, of attendances of children of school age.	102	501	65	86	754
No. of cases of children of school age referred for treatment to Biddulph Hospital, Staffordshire. (In-patients).	-	8	-	2	10

16 Wigan cases were treated during the year at Biddulph Hospital, the number of patient days being 2194.

BLIND, DEAF, PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

During the year 1944 the following defective children were being educated in the following Institutions :-

Blind.	Henshaw's Institution.	1
	Wigan Workshops for the Blind. (Technical Instruction) ..	1 over 16 yrs.
Deaf.	St. John's Institution for the Deaf, Boston Spa....	3
	Royal Cross School for the Deaf, Preston.	1
	Enquiries being made for vacancies.....	2
Physically Defective.	Dripples Home for Girls, Lavernock, Torquay.	1
	School of Stitchery & Lace, Bookham.	1
	Children's Convalescent Home, West Kirby...	3
Mentally Defective.	Pontville R.C. School, Ormskirk....	4
	Greenwood School Halstead, Essex....	1

Alderman Mrs. Ashurst, Councillor Maloney (at present on war service), and the Director of Education act as the Wigan Representatives on the West Lancashire Association for Mental Welfare.

SCHOLARSHIP CHILDREN.

During the year 1944 157 scholarship children were examined.

TABLE 1 - ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Number of children inspected 1st January 1944 to the 31st December 1944.

A - ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Code Groups Inspections :-	
Entrants.	1400
Intermediates.	1173
Leavers.	900
TOTAL.	3473
Number of other Routine Inspections.	341

B. - OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections.	3689
Number of Re-Inspections.	8168
TOTAL.	11857

CENTRAL CLINIC.

Table A gives an analysis of the work carried on in the Clinic :-

CLASSIFICATION OF CONSULTATIONS AND TREATMENT AT SCHOOL CLINIC 1944.

	Inspection at Clinic.	Referred to Infirmary or own Doctor.	Total No. of attendances at clinic.
Uncleanliness.	29	-	104
Ringworm - scalp.	2	-	14
- body.	8	-	40
Scabies.	213	-	856
Impetigo.	89	-	714
Other skin diseases.	1724	3	8432
Blepharitis.	12	-	107
Conjunctivitis.	28	-	355
Corneal Ulcer.	3	-	72
Defective vision.	79	-	87
Squint.	16	6	29
Other eye conditions.	110	2	341
Defective hearing.	16	3	28
Otitis Media.	50	6	715
Other ear diseases.	45	2	132
Enlarged adenoids.	4	1	5
Enlarged tonsils.	4	-	6
Enlarged tonsils and adenoids.	16	-	25
Other nose and throat diseases.	138	2	175
Enlarged cervical glands.	15	-	28
Defective speech.	4	-	4
Bronchitis.	73	1	258
Chorea.	2	2	2
Other bones and joints.	20	20	30
Petit Mal.	1	-	1
Other defects and diseases.	180	40	305
TOTAL.	2881	88	12865

PEMBERTON CLINIC.

TABLE b - gives analysis of the work carried on in the clinic :-

CLASSIFICATION OF CONSULTATIONS AND TREATMENT AT SCHOOL CLINIC 1944.

	Inspection at clinic.	Referred to own Doctor or Infirmary.	Total No. of attendances at clinic.
Uncleanliness.	13	-	21
Ringworm -, body.	2	-	6
Scabies.	18	-	161
Impetigo.	24	-	160
Other skin diseases.	219	-	1002
Blepharitis.	2	-	33
Conjunctivitis.	3	-	24
Defective Vision.	7	-	11
Squint.	1	-	1
Other eye conditions.	18	-	85
Defective hearing.	3	-	5
Otitis Media.	8	-	247
Other ear diseases.	7	-	13
Enlarged adenoids.	1	-	5
Enlarged tonsils and adenoids.	8	-	13
Other nose and throat diseases.	13	3	26
Enlarged cervical glands.	1	-	2
Anaemia.	1	-	1
Chorea.	1	-	1
Bronchitis.	3	-	16
Other defects and diseases.	10	-	17
TOTAL.	363	-	1850

Table. 2. MEDICAL INSPECTION RETURNS - SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

A. RETURNS OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 1944.

	Routine Inspections No. of defects.		Special Inspections. No. of defects.	
Defect or disease.	Requiring treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment.	Requiring Treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment.
Blepharitis.	1	1	-	-
Corneal Ulcer.	1	1	-	-
Defective vision.	16	14	5	-
Otitis Media.	1	-	-	-
Adenoids.	1	4	-	-
Tonsils.	1	4	-	-
Tonsils and adenoids.	-	2	-	-
Cervical glands.	-	2	-	-
Defective hearing.	1	-	-	-
Heart-Organic	-	1	-	-
Other nose & Throat diseases	-	1	-	-
Defective speech.	1	-	-	-
Anaemia.	4	-	-	-
Other defects & diseases.	9	1	-	-

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN FOUND AT ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION TO REQUIRE TREATMENT (EXCLUDING UNCLEANLINESS AND DENTAL DISEASES.

Group.	Number of children Inspected.	Found to require treatment.	Percentage of children found to require treatment.
Code Groups:-			
Entrants. Intermediates. Leavers.	443	35	7.9
TOTAL	443	35	7.9
Special Inspections.	8	5	62.4